



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

# NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**State Finds Palos Verdes Landfill is Safe and Well-Maintained**  
*Department of Toxic Substances Control seeks comment on five-year review*

**SACRAMENTO** - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) released the results of an exhaustive review of the current environmental safeguards and control systems in place at the Palos Verdes Landfill. The results indicate that current safeguards and control systems continue to be effective in protecting human health and the environment.

The environmental protections at the site include groundwater protection systems to control migration of waste from the landfill into groundwater; landfill gas collection systems to control gas emissions. A landscaped soil cover (trees, shrubs, and various ground coverings) prevents direct human contact with the wastes buried in the landfill.

Located in Rolling Hills Estates, the 291-acre property that once housed a hazardous waste landfill has since been developed into a park, botanic garden, horse stables and equestrian trails, and a recycling center. Landfill operations ceased in 1980, and the property is now managed by the Los Angeles County Department Parks and Recreation, the City of Rolling Hills Estates, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

The landfill began operation in 1952 and received approximately 23.6 million tons of waste. Facility records indicate that up to four percent of the waste was hazardous waste, generated primarily from local refineries and oil fields.

In the early 1980s, landfill-related chemicals were detected in groundwater under landfill. As a result, the Sanitation Districts, under DTSC oversight, conducted a thorough environmental investigation to evaluate the related health risks and determine the appropriate course of action to protect people from being exposed to the toxics in the landfill. Based on the findings of that investigation, corrective measures have focused on continued monitoring and control of landfill gas and containment of impacted groundwater.

In April 1999, DTSC approved the completion of the final cleanup plan that added five more extraction wells to the existing groundwater protection systems. To verify the continued effectiveness of the remedial measures, DTSC reviews the performance of the environmental control systems every five years at this and other sites at which hazardous waste remains in place.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is one of six agencies under the umbrella of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) who's mission is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.***